

I Claim:

1. A system for producing an output sound field that is representative of an input sound field, comprising:

a microphone array for receiving the input sound field and producing therefrom a microphone signal ("P<sub>in</sub>") representative of the input sound field wherein P<sub>in</sub> comprises B-format channels, an FL (front left) channel, and an FR (front right) channel;

an encoder for producing an encoded signal ("S<sub>out</sub>") from P<sub>in</sub> wherein S<sub>out</sub> comprises an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

a decoder for producing a decoded signal ("P<sub>out</sub>") from S<sub>out</sub> wherein P<sub>out</sub> comprises B-format channels, an FL channel, and an FR channel; and

a plurality of speakers for producing the output sound field from P<sub>out</sub>.

2. The system of Claim 1 wherein the hybrid microphone array is comprised of:

at least 6 microphones; and

a baffle including a substantially ellipsoidal structure.

3. The system of Claim 2 wherein four of said microphones are arranged in a tetrahedron.

4. The system of Claim 3 wherein the plurality of speakers produces the output sound field from S<sub>out</sub>.

5. The system of Claim 4 wherein the plurality of speakers are arranged in a 2D arrangement.

6. The system of Claim 1 wherein P<sub>in</sub> and S<sub>out</sub> are each a 6 x 1 matrix and the encoder produces S<sub>out</sub> by multiplying P<sub>in</sub> by a 6 x 6 transformation matrix ("S").

7. The system of Claim 1 wherein S comprises the quantities:

$s(L, FL)$	$s(L, FR)$	$s(L, W)$	$s(L, X)$	$s(L, Y)$	$s(L, Z)$
$s(R, FL)$	$s(R, FR)$	$s(R, W)$	$s(R, X)$	$s(R, Y)$	$s(R, Z)$
$s(C, FL)$	$s(C, FR)$	$s(C, W)$	$s(C, X)$	$s(C, Y)$	$s(C, Z)$
$s(SC, FL)$	$s(SC, FR)$	$s(SC, W)$	$s(SC, X)$	$s(SC, Y)$	$s(SC, Z)$
$s(SL, FL)$	$s(SL, FR)$	$s(SL, W)$	$s(SL, X)$	$s(SL, Y)$	$s(SL, Z)$
$s(SR, FL)$	$s(SR, FR)$	$s(SR, W)$	$s(SR, X)$	$s(SR, Y)$	$s(SR, Z)$

wherein:

L represents a left speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

R represents a right speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

C represents a center speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

SC represents a surround center speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

SL represents a surround left speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

SR represents a surround right speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

FL represents the front left speaker channel;

FR represents the front right speaker channel;

W represents a B-format channel;

X represents a B-format channel;

Y represents a B-format channel;

Z represents a B-format channel;

and wherein

$s(\alpha, \beta)$  represents a transformation quantity relating the respective  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  channels.

8. The system of Claim 7 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.736	0	.425
0	0	.601	-.736	0	.425
0	0	.601	-.368	.638	-.425
0	0	.601	-.368	-.638	-.425

9. The system of Claim 7 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.736	0	-.425
0	0	.601	-.736	0	-.425
0	0	.601	-.368	.638	.425
0	0	.601	-.368	-.638	.425

10. The system of Claim 7 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.736	0	.425
0	0	.601	-.425	0	.736
0	0	.601	-.425	.736	0
0	0	.601	-.425	-.736	0

11. The system of Claim 7 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.850	0	0
0	0	.601	-.425	0	.736
0	0	.601	-.531	.638	-.184
0	0	.601	-.531	-.638	-.184

12. The system of Claim 7 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

$$\begin{vmatrix} .850 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & .850 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & .601 & .425 & 0 & -.736 \\ 0 & 0 & .601 & -.850 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & .601 & -.106 & .638 & .552 \\ 0 & 0 & .601 & -.106 & -.638 & .552 \end{vmatrix}$$

13. The system of Claim 7 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

$$\begin{vmatrix} .850 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & .850 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & .601 & .850 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & .601 & 0 & 0 & .850 \\ 0 & 0 & .601 & -.368 & .736 & .213 \\ 0 & 0 & .601 & -.368 & -.736 & .213 \end{vmatrix}$$

14. The system of Claim 6 wherein  $P_{out}$  is a 6 x 1 matrix and the decoder produces  $P_{out}$  by multiplying  $S_{out}$  by the inverse of S.

15. The system of Claim 1 wherein the plurality of speakers are arranged in a 3D arrangement.

16. The system of Claim 15 wherein the plurality of speakers is ten.

17. The system of Claim 16 wherein:

a first two of said speakers are positioned so that:

azimuthally, one is approximately 8 degrees to the left of and the other is approximately 8 degrees to the right of the 12 o'clock position of a listener; and

elevationally, both are positioned substantially on a horizontal plane that intersects the listener's ears;

a second two of said speakers are positioned so that:

azimuthally, one is approximately 45 degrees to the left of and the other is approximately 45 degrees to the right of the 12 o'clock position of the listener; and

elevationally, both are positioned substantially on said horizontal plane;

a third two of said speakers are positioned so that:

azimuthally, one is approximately 135 degrees to the left of and the other is approximately 135 degrees to the right of the 12 o'clock position of the listener; and

elevationally, both are positioned substantially on said horizontal plane;

a fourth two of said speakers are positioned so that:

azimuthally, one is approximately 90 degrees to the left of and the other is approximately 90 degrees to the right of the 12 o'clock position of the listener; and

elevationally, both are positioned above said horizontal plane;

and

a fifth two of said speakers are positioned so that:

azimuthally, one is approximately 90 degrees to the left of and the other is approximately 90 degrees to the right of the 12 o'clock position of the listener; and

elevationally, both are positioned below said horizontal plane.

18. The system of Claim 17 further comprising at least two additional speakers.
19. The system of Claim 18 wherein:
  - a sixth two of said speakers are positioned so that:
    - azimuthally, one is approximately 172 degrees to the left of and the other is approximately 172 degrees to the right of the 12 o'clock position of a listener; and
    - elevationally, both are positioned substantially on a horizontal plane that intersects the listener's ears;
20. A system for providing an encoded signal ("S<sub>out</sub>") representative of an input sound field, comprising:
  - a microphone array for receiving the input sound field and producing therefrom a microphone signal ("P<sub>in</sub>") representative of the input sound field wherein P<sub>in</sub> comprises B-format channels, an FL (front left) channel, and an FR (front right) channel;
  - an encoder for producing S<sub>out</sub> from P<sub>in</sub> wherein S<sub>out</sub> comprises an ITU-compatible six channel signal.
21. The system of Claim 20 wherein the hybrid microphone array is comprised of:
  - at least 6 microphones; and
  - a baffle including a substantially ellipsoidal structure.
22. The system of Claim 21 wherein four of said microphones are arranged in a tetrahedron.
23. The system of Claim 20 wherein P<sub>in</sub> and S<sub>out</sub> are each a 6 x 1 matrix and the encoder produces S<sub>out</sub> by multiplying P<sub>in</sub> by a 6 x 6 transformation matrix ("S").

24. The system of Claim 20 wherein S comprises the quantities:

$s(L, FL)$	$s(L, FR)$	$s(L, W)$	$s(L, X)$	$s(L, Y)$	$s(L, Z)$
$s(R, FL)$	$s(R, FR)$	$s(R, W)$	$s(R, X)$	$s(R, Y)$	$s(R, Z)$
$s(C, FL)$	$s(C, FR)$	$s(C, W)$	$s(C, X)$	$s(C, Y)$	$s(C, Z)$
$s(SC, FL)$	$s(SC, FR)$	$s(SC, W)$	$s(SC, X)$	$s(SC, Y)$	$s(SC, Z)$
$s(SL, FL)$	$s(SL, FR)$	$s(SL, W)$	$s(SL, X)$	$s(SL, Y)$	$s(SL, Z)$
$s(SR, FL)$	$s(SR, FR)$	$s(SR, W)$	$s(SR, X)$	$s(SR, Y)$	$s(SR, Z)$

wherein:

L represents a left speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

R represents a right speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

C represents a center speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

SC represents a surround center speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

SL represents a surround left speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

SR represents a surround right speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

FL represents the front left speaker channel;

FR represents the front right speaker channel;

W represents a B-format channel;

X represents a B-format channel;

Y represents a B-format channel;

Z represents a B-format channel;

and wherein

$s(\alpha, \beta)$  represents a transformation quantity relating the respective  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  channels.

25. The system of Claim 24 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.736	0	.425
0	0	.601	-.736	0	.425
0	0	.601	-.368	.638	-.425
0	0	.601	-.368	-.638	-.425

26. The system of Claim 24 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.736	0	-.425
0	0	.601	-.736	0	-.425
0	0	.601	-.368	.638	.425
0	0	.601	-.368	-.638	.425

27. The system of Claim 24 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.736	0	.425
0	0	.601	-.425	0	.736
0	0	.601	-.425	.736	0
0	0	.601	-.425	-.736	0

28. The system of Claim 24 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.850	0	0
0	0	.601	-.425	0	.736
0	0	.601	-.531	.638	-.184
0	0	.601	-.531	-.638	-.184



29. The system of Claim 24 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.425	0	-.736
0	0	.601	-.850	0	0
0	0	.601	-.106	.638	.552
0	0	.601	-.106	-.638	.552

30. The system of Claim 24 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.850	0	0
0	0	.601	0	0	.850
0	0	.601	-.368	.736	.213
0	0	.601	-.368	-.736	.213

31. The system of Claim 23 wherein  $P_{out}$  is a 6 x 1 matrix and the decoder produces  $P_{out}$  by multiplying  $S_{out}$  by the inverse of S.

32. A method for producing an output sound field that is representative of an input sound field, comprising the steps of:

providing a microphone array for receiving the input sound field and producing therefrom a microphone signal (" $P_{in}$ ") representative of the input sound field wherein  $P_{in}$  comprises B-format channels, an FL channel, and an FR channel;

producing an encoded signal (" $S_{out}$ ") from  $P_{in}$  wherein  $S_{out}$  comprises an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

producing a decoded signal (" $P_{out}$ ") from  $S_{out}$  wherein  $P_{out}$  comprises B-format channels, an FL channel, and an FR channel; and

providing a plurality of speakers for producing the output sound field from  $P_{out}$  to thereby represent the input sound field.

33. The method of Claim 32 wherein the hybrid microphone array is comprised of:

at least 6 microphones; and

a substantially ellipsoidal baffle.

34. The method of Claim 33 wherein four of said microphones are arranged in a tetrahedron.
35. The method of Claim 34 wherein the plurality of speakers produces the output sound field from  $S_{out}$ .
36. The method of Claim 35 wherein the plurality of speakers are provided in a 2D arrangement.
37. The method of Claim 32 wherein  $P_{in}$  and  $S_{out}$  are each a  $6 \times 1$  matrix and the encoder produces  $S_{out}$  by multiplying  $P_{in}$  by a  $6 \times 6$  transformation matrix ("S").

38. The method of Claim 32 wherein S comprises the quantities:

$s(L, FL)$	$s(L, FR)$	$s(L, W)$	$s(L, X)$	$s(L, Y)$	$s(L, Z)$
$s(R, FL)$	$s(R, FR)$	$s(R, W)$	$s(R, X)$	$s(R, Y)$	$s(R, Z)$
$s(C, FL)$	$s(C, FR)$	$s(C, W)$	$s(C, X)$	$s(C, Y)$	$s(C, Z)$
$s(SC, FL)$	$s(SC, FR)$	$s(SC, W)$	$s(SC, X)$	$s(SC, Y)$	$s(SC, Z)$
$s(SL, FL)$	$s(SL, FR)$	$s(SL, W)$	$s(SL, X)$	$s(SL, Y)$	$s(SL, Z)$
$s(SR, FL)$	$s(SR, FR)$	$s(SR, W)$	$s(SR, X)$	$s(SR, Y)$	$s(SR, Z)$

wherein:

L represents a left speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

R represents a right speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

C represents a center speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

SC represents a surround center speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

SL represents a surround left speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

SR represents a surround right speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

FL represents the front left speaker channel;

FR represents the front right speaker channel;

W represents a B-format channel;

X represents a B-format channel;

Y represents a B-format channel;

Z represents a B-format channel;

and wherein

$s(\alpha, \beta)$  represents a transformation quantity relating the respective  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  channels.

39. The method of Claim 38 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.736	0	.425
0	0	.601	-.736	0	.425
0	0	.601	-.368	.638	-.425
0	0	.601	-.368	-.638	-.425

40. The method of Claim 38 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.736	0	-.425
0	0	.601	-.736	0	-.425
0	0	.601	-.368	.638	.425
0	0	.601	-.368	-.638	.425

41. The method of Claim 38 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.736	0	.425
0	0	.601	-.425	0	.736
0	0	.601	-.425	.736	0
0	0	.601	-.425	-.736	0

42. The method of Claim 38 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.850	0	0
0	0	.601	-.425	0	.736
0	0	.601	-.531	.638	-.184
0	0	.601	-.531	-.638	-.184

43. The method of Claim 38 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.425	0	-.736
0	0	.601	-.850	0	0
0	0	.601	-.106	.638	.552
0	0	.601	-.106	-.638	.552

44. The method of Claim 38 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.850	0	0
0	0	.601	0	0	.850
0	0	.601	-.368	.736	.213
0	0	.601	-.368	-.736	.213

45. The method of Claim 37 wherein  $P_{out}$  is a 6 x 1 matrix and the decoder produces  $P_{out}$  by multiplying  $S_{out}$  by the inverse of S.

46. The method of Claim 32 wherein the plurality of speakers are arranged in a 3D arrangement.

47. The method of Claim 46 wherein the plurality of speakers is ten.

48. The method of Claim 47 wherein:

a first two of said speakers are positioned so that:

azimuthally, one is approximately 8 degrees to the left of and the other is approximately 8 degrees to the right of the 12 o'clock position of a listener; and

elevationally, both are positioned substantially on a horizontal plane that intersects the listener's ears;

a second two of said speakers are positioned so that:

azimuthally, one is approximately 45 degrees to the left of and the other is approximately 45 degrees to the right of the 12 o'clock position of the listener; and

elevationally, both are positioned substantially on said horizontal plane;

a third two of said speakers are positioned so that:

azimuthally, one is approximately 135 degrees to the left of and the other is approximately 135 degrees to the right of the 12 o'clock position of the listener; and

elevationally, both are positioned substantially on said horizontal plane;

a fourth two of said speakers are positioned so that:

azimuthally, one is approximately 90 degrees to the left of and the other is approximately 90 degrees to the right of the 12 o'clock position of the listener; and

elevationally, both are positioned above said horizontal plane;

and

a fifth two of said speakers are positioned so that:

azimuthally, one is approximately 90 degrees to the left of and the other is approximately 90 degrees to the right of the 12 o'clock position of the listener; and

elevationally, both are positioned below said horizontal plane.

49. The method of Claim 48 further comprising at least two additional speakers.
50. The method of Claim 49 wherein:
- a sixth two of said speakers are positioned so that:
- azimuthally, one is approximately 172 degrees to the left of and the other is approximately 172 degrees to the right of the 12 o'clock position of a listener; and
- elevationally, both are positioned substantially on a horizontal plane that intersects the listener's ears;
51. A method for producing an encoded signal ("S<sub>out</sub>") representative of an input sound field, comprising the steps:
- providing a microphone array for receiving the input sound field and producing therefrom a microphone signal ("P<sub>in</sub>") representative of the input sound field wherein P<sub>in</sub> comprises B-format channels, an FL (front left) channel, and an FR (front right) channel;
- producing S<sub>out</sub> from P<sub>in</sub> wherein S<sub>out</sub> comprises an ITU-compatible six channel signal.
52. The method of Claim 51 wherein the hybrid microphone array is comprised of:
- at least 6 microphones; and
- a substantially ellipsoidal shaped baffle.
53. The method of Claim 52 wherein four of said microphones are arranged in a tetrahedron.
54. The method of Claim 51 wherein P<sub>in</sub> and S<sub>out</sub> are each a 6 x 1 matrix and the encoder produces S<sub>out</sub> by multiplying P<sub>in</sub> by a 6 x 6 transformation matrix ("S").

55. The method of Claim 51 wherein S comprises the quantities:

$s(L, FL)$	$s(L, FR)$	$s(L, W)$	$s(L, X)$	$s(L, Y)$	$s(L, Z)$
$s(R, FL)$	$s(R, FR)$	$s(R, W)$	$s(R, X)$	$s(R, Y)$	$s(R, Z)$
$s(C, FL)$	$s(C, FR)$	$s(C, W)$	$s(C, X)$	$s(C, Y)$	$s(C, Z)$
$s(SC, FL)$	$s(SC, FR)$	$s(SC, W)$	$s(SC, X)$	$s(SC, Y)$	$s(SC, Z)$
$s(SL, FL)$	$s(SL, FR)$	$s(SL, W)$	$s(SL, X)$	$s(SL, Y)$	$s(SL, Z)$
$s(SR, FL)$	$s(SR, FR)$	$s(SR, W)$	$s(SR, X)$	$s(SR, Y)$	$s(SR, Z)$

wherein:

L represents a left speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

R represents a right speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

C represents a center speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

SC represents a surround center speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

SL represents a surround left speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

SR represents a surround right speaker channel for an ITU-compatible six channel signal;

FL represents the front left speaker channel;

FR represents the front right speaker channel;

W represents a B-format channel;

X represents a B-format channel;

Y represents a B-format channel;

Z represents a B-format channel;

and wherein

$s(\alpha, \beta)$  represents a transformation quantity relating the respective  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  channels.



56. The method of Claim 55 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.736	0	.425
0	0	.601	-.736	0	.425
0	0	.601	-.368	.638	-.425
0	0	.601	-.368	-.638	-.425

57. The method of Claim 55 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.736	0	-.425
0	0	.601	-.736	0	-.425
0	0	.601	-.368	.638	.425
0	0	.601	-.368	-.638	.425

58. The method of Claim 55 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.736	0	.425
0	0	.601	-.425	0	.736
0	0	.601	-.425	.736	0
0	0	.601	-.425	-.736	0

59. The method of Claim 55 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.850	0	0
0	0	.601	-.425	0	.736
0	0	.601	-.531	.638	-.184
0	0	.601	-.531	-.638	-.184

60. The method of Claim 55 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.425	0	-.736
0	0	.601	-.850	0	0
0	0	.601	-.106	.638	.552
0	0	.601	-.106	-.638	.552

61. The method of Claim 55 wherein S comprises the following approximate quantities:

.850	0	0	0	0	0
0	.850	0	0	0	0
0	0	.601	.850	0	0
0	0	.601	0	0	.850
0	0	.601	-.368	.736	.213
0	0	.601	-.368	-.736	.213

62. The method of Claim 54 wherein  $P_{out}$  is a 6 x 1 matrix and the decoder produces  $P_{out}$  by multiplying  $S_{out}$  by the inverse of S.

63. In a system for producing a 2D output sound field that is a function of an input sound field, where the system includes a microphone for receiving the input sound field and producing therefrom a microphone signal comprising B-format channels, an encoder for receiving the microphone signal and producing therefrom an encoded signal comprising an ITU-compatible six channel signal, and a first plurality of speakers arranged in a 2D configuration for receiving the encoded signal and producing therefrom the 2D output sound field, the improvement comprising:

a microphone array in place of said microphone wherein said microphone array receives the input sound field and produces therefrom a microphone array signal representative of the input sound field wherein the microphone array signal comprises B-format channels, an FL channel, and an FR channel;

said encoder further comprising circuitry for providing said encoded signal from said microphone array signal;

a decoder for producing a decoded signal from said encoded signal wherein said decoded signal comprises B-format channels, an FL channel, and an FR channel; and

a second plurality of speakers in addition to the first plurality of speakers, said first and second plurality of speakers arranged in a 3D configuration and receiving said decoded signal and producing therefrom a 3D output sound field.

64. The system of Claim 63 wherein the hybrid microphone array is comprised of:  
at least 6 microphones; and  
a baffle including a substantially ellipsoidal structure.